

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SOE-02
AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08
DOE-11 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-06
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /137 W
-----044235 190223Z /64

R 181455Z JAN 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5052
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, XF
SUBJ: TENTH ARAB PETROLEUM CONFERENCE

REF: TRIPOLI 0015 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: TENTH ARAB PETROLEUM CONFERENCE OPENED IN TRIPOLI
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JANUARY 16 WITHOUT FIREWORKS. CONFERENCE IS SAID TO BE
SMALLER THAN USUAL, DUE MAINLY TO ABSENCE OF NORMALLY LARGE
EGYPTIAN DELEGATION. APPEARS TO BE DEVELOPING AS A ROUTINE
TECHNICAL MEETING BUT WITH EXPECTABLE POLITICAL OVERTONES.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE TENTH ARAB PETROLEUM CONFERENCE WHICH OPENED

IN TRIPOLI JANUARY 16 HAS THUS FAR PRODUCED LESS THAN THE USUAL GUSHER OF PROPAGANDA ASSOCIATED WITH TRIPOLI CONFERENCES. IT APPEARS AT THIS STAGE TO BE A ROUTINE TECHNICAL MEETING WHERE PAPERS ARE READ (REPORTEDLY SOME 65) AND SPECIALISTS GET TOGETHER, BUT WITH THE USUAL POLITICAL OVERTONES OF ARAB GATHERINGS. WHILE IT WAS SUGGESTED EARLIER THAT MAIN THEME WOULD BE PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT, AVAILABLE REPORTS ON NATURE OF PAPERS BEING PRESENTED INDICATED A FOCUS ON ROLE OF NATIONAL OIL COMPANIES, THE PROCESS OF GAINING PROGRESSIVELY GREATER NATIONAL CONTROL OVER OIL ASSETS, AND NEED TO USE PETROLEUM REVENUES TO TRANSFORM AND DEVELOP ECONOMIES OF OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

2. ACCORDING TO LIBYAN MEDIA, EITHER 12 OR 15 UN-NAMED ARAB COUNTRIES ARE IN ATTENDANCE. AN INDUSTRY SOURCE HAS REPORTED THE FOLLOWING LIST (NOT NECESSARILY ALL INCLUSIVE) OF PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS WHICH INCLUDES ONLY EIGHT ARAB COUNTRIES: SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, ALGERIA, TUNISIA, IRAQ, UAE, PDRY, LIBYA, VENEZUELA, PLO, OPEC, OAPEC, AND LOCAL OIL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES. CHINESE (PRC) AND RUSSIANS ARE SAID TO BE PRESENT, BUT IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER AS NATIONAL OBSERVER DELEGATIONS OR AS INDIVIDUAL OBSERVERS. LIBYAN MEDIA CLAIM THT NINE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ORGANIZATIONS ARE ATTENDING, BUT HAVE NOT NAMED THEM. INDUSTRY SOURCE SAYS CONFERENCE IS MUCH SMALLER THAN EARLIER ARAB CONFERENCES DUE MAINLY TO ABSENCE OF NORMALLY LARGE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION AND OF SYRIANS, BUT SPECULATES ALSO THAT MANY POTENTIAL DELEGATES MAY NOT HAVE THOUGHT THE TRIPOLI ENVIRONMENT WORTH EXPERIENCING. ABOUT 1500 DELEGATES ARE ESTIMATED TO HAVE REGISTERED, INCLUDING AROUND 300 FROM LIBYA.

3. THE BEACH HOTEL WAS TAKEN OVER FOR THE PARTICIPANTS AND IS SURROUNDED BY SECURITY FORCES WHO REFUSE ADMITTANCE TO ALL NON-PARTICIPANTS. NON-CONFERENCE GUESTS WERE MOVED OR HAD THEIR RESERVATIONS CANCELED, INCLUDING U.S. SENATOR JAMES MCCLURE AND PARTY. THE CONFERENCE ITSELF IS CLOSED TO ALL BUT REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS.

4. CONFERENCE, WHICH IS TAKING PLACE IN PEOPLE'S HALL, LIBYA'S LARGEST AUDITORIUM, WAS OPENED BY LIBYAN PETROLEUM SECRETARY MABRUK. ACCORDING TO MEDIA SUMMARY, POLITICAL CONTENT OF HIS REMARKS WAS ADDRESSED TO THEME OF RECOVERY OF CONTROL OF ARAB

RESOURCES FROM FOREIGN COMPANIES, CITING LIBYA'S SPECIAL HISTORICAL ROLE IN THIS PROCESS. HE NOTED CONFERENCE WILL "STRENGTHEN THE ARAB OIL INDUSTRY AND THAT STUDIES WHICH HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR DISCUSSION....WILL BOLSTER AND DEVELOP THE INDUSTRY IN THE ARAB HOMELAND." MABRUK WAS FOLLOWED BY AN ARAB LEAGUE SPOKESMAN WHOSE REMARKS, ACCORDING TO THE MEDIA, INCLUDED A WARNING AGAINST THE ZIONIST DANGER WHICH INCLUDES "AN IMPERIALIST PLAN TO DOMINATE THE ARAB ECONOMY IN ORDER TO ATTAIN ZIONIST AMBITIONS." JUDGING BY THE SUMMARIES, SADAT WAS FOR ONCE NOT A TARGET.
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Message Attributes

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